and U.P. have been directed to initiate action against the respective operating agencies which are defaulting in the operation of assets. The matter is being pursued with the State Governments of U.P. & Bihar regularly for adequate provision of funds for operation and maintenance of assets.

(iii) The State Governments have been asked to ensure continuous supply of electricity for assets through dedicated feeders wherever required.

(iv) To address the problem of mocrobialpollution ithasbeendecided to adopt land based technologies for sewage treatment wherever feasible. In cases where conventional technologies are to be used, it has been decided to utilise the treated waste water for irrigation purpose through out the year except during monsoons when it can be discharged into the river.

(d) During 1998-99, work will continue on completion of the present remaining seven schemes of the first phase of Ganga Action Plan as well as on the schemes approved under the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan.

Stay of the Ganga Action Plan by Allahabad High court

1418. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Allahabad High Court has stayed implementation of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Allahabad High Court had stayed implementation of Ganga Action Plan Phase II and directed the Ministry of Environment and Forests to constitute a Technical Committee to examine, scrutinize and approve the project on the ground that the work which was undertaken under Ganga Action Plan had been started without getting the project report prepared in consultation with a Committee comprising technical experts. This Order of the Hon'ble Allahabad High Court has been contested by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in the Supreme Court of India, who have stayed the above directive pending further orders.

उत्तरांचल के निवासियों को सुविधाएं

1419. **श्री मनोहर कांत ध्यानी** : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री 10 जुलाई, 1998 को राज्य सभा में आतांराकित प्रश्न 2605 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) केन्द्र सरकार ने माननीय उच्चतम न्यायालय के निर्देशों की भावना के अनुसार उत्तरांचल के निवासियों को वास्ताविक व्यक्तिगत प्रयोग हेतु वन उत्पाद सम्बन्धी अधिकारों और रियायतों का लाभ देने तथा उनके वन संबंधी हकों की आवश्यकता की पूर्ति हेतु विभाग के लिए कोई मार्ग-निर्देशिका बनाई हैं; और

(ख) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा दिए गए निर्देश की अनुपालना में अपनी विस्तृत रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर दी हैं अगर हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है, यदि नहीं, तो इसके कारण क्या हैं?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बाबू लाल मरांडी) : (क) माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायाल के दिनांक 23.1.1998 के आदेश तथा दिनांक 5.6.1998 के उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के अनुरोध के अनुसरण में केन्द्र सरकार ने 31.7.98 को अपने लखनऊ स्थित क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय के माध्यम से पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों के वन मण्डलों में स्थानीय लोगों के वास्तविक निजी प्रयोग के लिए निर्धारित वन उत्पाद के संबंध में माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के दिनांक 23.1.1998 के उक्त आदेश में निहित निदेशों के अनुसार अधिकार तथा रियायतें प्राप्त करने के लिए राज्य वन विभाग को मंजूरी दे दी हैं।

(ख) इस मामले में उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की रिपोर्ट अभी तक प्राप्त नहीं हुई हैं।

Guidelines to move brick kilns away from reserve forest areas

1420. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines exist to move brick kilns away from reserve forest areas;

(b) if so, the details of such guidelines issued to States Governments;

(c) whether any plan has been drawn up to increase forestation in the marginal areas of reserve forests; and

(d) the details of such plans to enhance afforestation in depleted areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENV RONMENT AND FORESTS SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) And (b) As such no guidelines have been issued by the Ministry to move brick kilns away from reserve forest areas. However, as per the guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, prior approval of the central Government would required to be obtained for use of forest land to any non-forest purpose including establishing a brick kiln. Further, this Ministry docs not permit normally diversion of forest land for any such non-forest activity unless it is site specific and diversion is unavoidable.

(c) and (d) Through the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board, the Ministry has drawn schemes for promoting afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-dcvclop-menf activities with' special attention to degraded forest areas and lands adjoining forest areas. The important schemes are — Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme (IAEP), Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme (AOFFP) and Non-Timber Forest Produce Scheme (NTFP). The tentative allocation for the Ninth Five Year Plan under these Schemes are Rs. 334 crores for IAEP, Rs. 230 crores for AOFFP and Rs. 120 crores from NTFP.

Torture of Elephants in the Great Elephant March in Kerala

1421. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that elephants are subjected to a great torture in the Great Elephant March in Kerala;

(b) whether Government have received many complaints in this regard; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government plan to stop this practice once for all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Government of Kerala have reported that it is not true that elephants are tortured during the Great Elephant March. The March is organised by the State Tourism Department using the captive elephants in the State. Ill treatment of elephants is guarded against with the assistance of eminent elephant experts and elephant welfare organisations.

(b) The Kerala Tourism Department has received complaints and criticism from domestic and international sources. A campaign against the event is reported to be spearheaded in Europe by the "Born Free Foundation". Complaints have also been received from "Shankers for Animals, Chennai".

(c) The Government of Kerala has decided to discontinue the Great Elephant March from 2000 A.D. and the last one will be held in January 1999 in view of committments already made to the tour operators.